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Public Health Reports

Treasury Department, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Published in accordance with act of Congress approved February 15, 1883.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY 6, 1900.

No. 27.

NOTICE.

Any person on the mailing list of the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS who, at any time, fails to receive promptly this publication will confer a favor by notifying the Surgeon-General of the United States Marine-Hospital Service.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine Hospital Service.]

Plague in San Francisco.

[Continued from PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS, No. 26, pages 1628-1629.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 30, 1900.*

Cultures submitted by you, labeled case, 1; monkey, and Chinese girl, 2; have been examined in hygienic laboratory this Bureau, and Rosenau and Geddings report to-day that morphology, cultural characteristics and results of animal inoculations prove them genuine bubonic plague.

WYMAN.

KINYOUN, *Quarantine Station, Angel Island, Cal.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 30, 1900.*

Notwithstanding position taken by governor, inasmuch as it is stated that he with State board of health is engaged in watching and investigating suspected cases, your attitude toward him and State board should still be one of cooperation in measures looking to facts and sanitary restraints. Any facts wired by you as confidential will not be given out here until the confidential request is withdrawn. Publicity may not be required provided proper measures are taken.

WYMAN.

KINYOUN, *San Francisco, Cal.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *July 3, 1900.*

Acting Attorney-General sent following to district attorney this morning: "Report at once action of court in contempt proceeding against

Dr. Kinyoun, and if adverse to him take immediate steps to have decision reviewed. Prompt and vigorous action on your part by habeas corpus proceeding or otherwise, as in your judgment is best, is expected."

WYMAN.

KINYOUN, *San Francisco, Cal.*

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *July 3, 1900.*

Court decides me not in contempt of its orders. * * *

KINYOUN.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Measures taken to induce acceptance of Haffkine inoculation in San Francisco.

The following letter very clearly sets forth the attitude of Surg. J. J. Kinyoun toward the inoculation of persons in San Francisco with Haffkine prophylactic, and shows that compulsion was not only avoided by him, but advised against, as an unwise and illegal measure:

SAN FRANCISCO QUARANTINE,
San Francisco, Cal., June 11, 1900.

SIR: On receipt of Bureau telegram of the 15th ultimo directing me to confer with the Chinese consul-general as Bureau representative in the matter of the plague in the Chinese quarter. I have the honor to state I immediately called upon the Hon. Ho Yow, consul-general, and stated to him all the facts relative to the plague which had come under my observation or which had been brought to my notice by the local board of health. During this interview Mr. John Bennett, attorney for the consul and the Six Companies, came in and took part in the discussion. After thoroughly canvassing the matter, it was agreed by all the parties that the most reasonable solution of the question was to advise all the Chinese residents living in the infected area to submit to inoculation with the Haffkine prophylactic. I was informed both by the consul-general and the attorney that they would make such recommendations to the Chinese residents and that they would aid and cooperate with the board of health in carrying this scheme into effect.

By direction of the Bureau, on the same day a few hours later, I attended a meeting of the Merchants' Association which met for a conference with the local board of health. The purpose of this meeting was intended to devise ways and means to assist the board in suppressing the disease or preventing its spread. The attorney of the Chinese Six Companies was present at this conference. The telegram received from the Bureau which made certain recommendations regarding the control of the plague was fully and freely discussed, and the main features thereof were adopted as the sense of the meeting. The impression which seemed to prevail at the close of the meeting was that the Chinese and Japanese would gladly avail themselves of inoculation in order to obviate the necessity of enforcing more severe measures.

I ventured, however, to suggest to both the board of health and the Merchants' Association that while I believed from a scientific standpoint it was the proper way to suppress a plague epidemic, I had grave doubts whether the Chinese and Japanese populace would be ready to accept it, notwithstanding it was to be recommended by those in authority. *Compulsory inoculation* was the only recourse *and that could not be considered.* The attorney for the Chinese thought if a conference